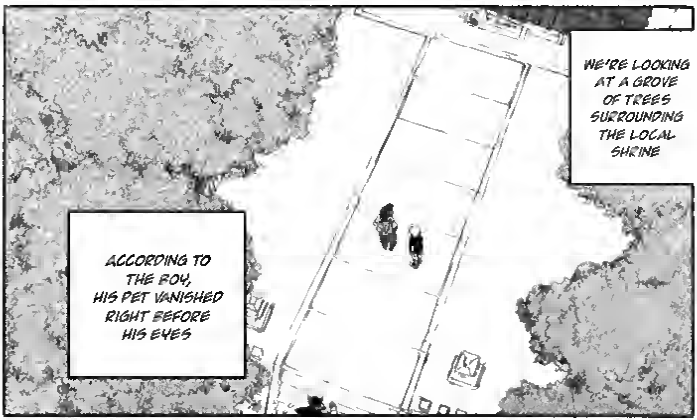

WE'RE LOOKING AT A GROVE OF TREES SURROUNDING THE LOCAL SHRINE
ACCORDING TO THE BOY, HIS PET VANISHED RIGHT BEFORE HIS EYES

*nekoirazu = rat poison. Literally it means "cat not necessary" In this case, one could interpret it as "(the) cat is dispensable"

WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG, HMM?
...

EEEK!
NOT THAT AGAIN!!
You! Why are you always doing things like that?
Forgive me

SIGH...
ON MY WAY HERE, I RAN INTO A GIRL IN TROUBLE, SO I GAVE HER A HAND—
And oh boy, was she a beauty
I wish you had seen her Sense!!
Wriggle

GASP!

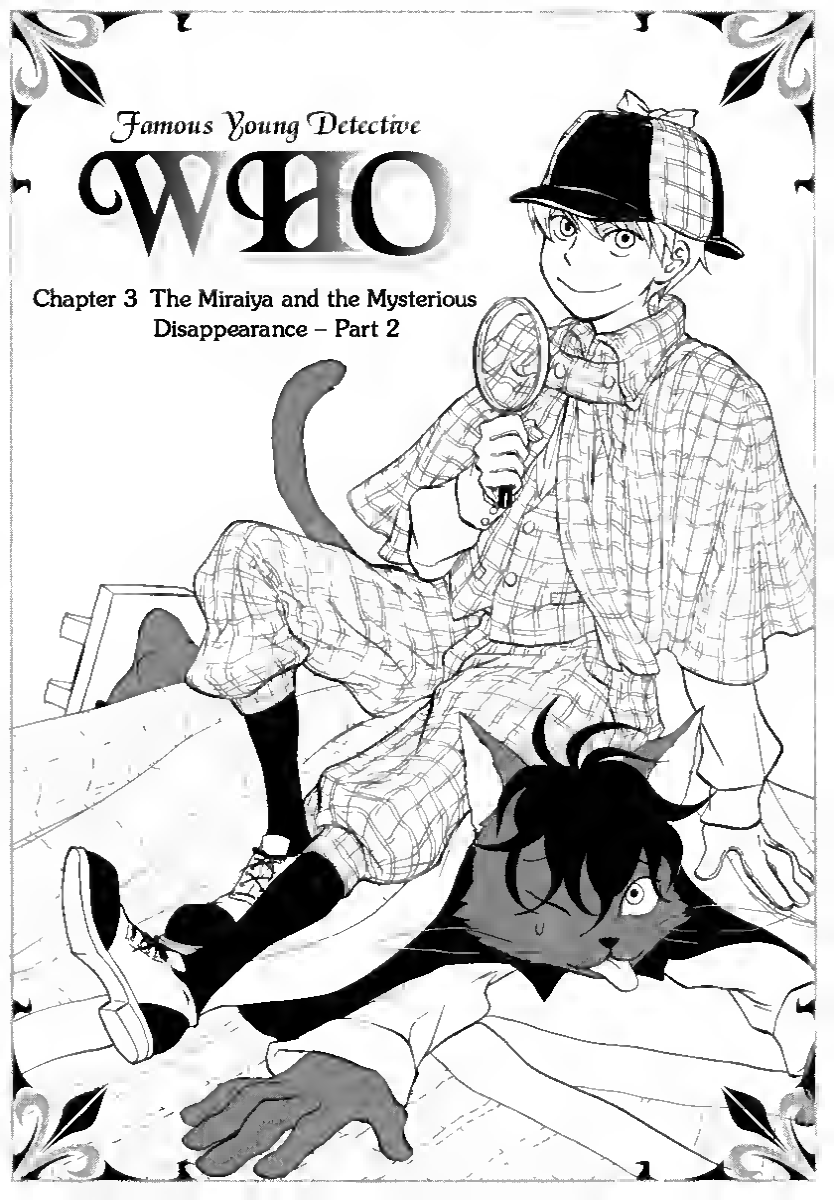
I SOLVED THE MYSTERY WHILE I WAS WAITING FOR YOU.
REALLY...
ACTUALLY, SINCE YOU WERE SO SLOW.

IF YOU CAN'T EVEN CRACK A SIMPLE CASE LIKE THIS,
YOU REALLY AREN'T FIT TO BE MY APPRENTICE.
Gyaa!
HUH?!
SO YOU FIGURED OUT HOW THE DOG DISAPPEARED, WHO-SENSEI?
CRUNCH...
THE SOLUTION...
TO THIS MYSTERY...
IS CRYSTAL CLEAR TO ME NOW.

Famous Young Detective

WHO

Chapter 3 The Miraiya and the Mysterious Disappearance – Part 2



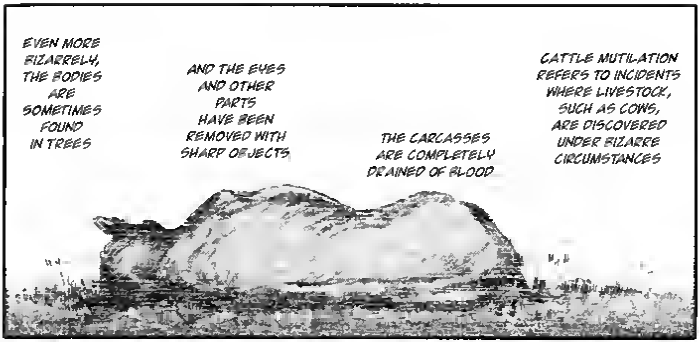
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
Quite some time ago
WAH! NEKOYANAGI-SAN!!
When did you get here?!
CLUNK
Looks like it—
What's that? An essay?
...
Crack
HMM... LET'S SEE. LET'S SEE.
G-GIVE IT BACK!
Squeak~
Towering
EH?
I CALLED OUT, BUT GOT NARY A RESPONSE.
ACK!
When?
Snatch
Sud-
den

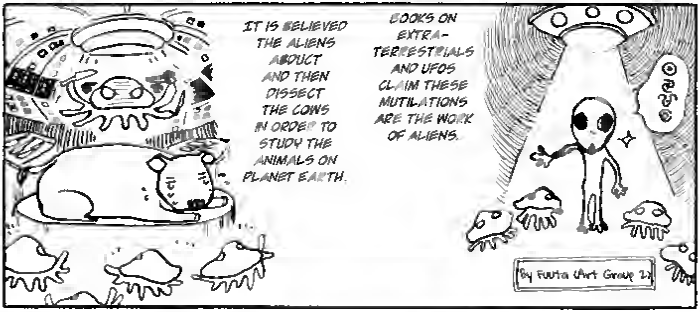
SHIT.
Shiiiit
Relentless
IS THIS "FAMOUS YOUNG DETECTIVE WHO" REFERRING TO YOU, FUUTA-KUN?
...
LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY'S STILL BITTER ABOUT ME NOT BRINGING HIM AN UMBRELLA SOONER.
Oh no no no
Absolutely nothing of the sort
shake
shake
IS HE MODELED AFTER ANYONE?
WHAT ABOUT THIS "ILL-MANNERED, LECHEROUS NUISANCE WITH THE ANNOYINGLY LONG BANGS" BY THE NAME OF NEKOIRAZU?
Pat Pat
I SUPPOSE WE CAN EXPECT A SWIFT CONCLUSION TO THE CASE EH?
GIVEN THAT WHO DOESN'T REALLY EVEN NEED AN ASSISTANT...
BUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOUNG WHO AND NEKOIRAZU-KUN IS EXTREMELY WELL-WRITTEN~
WELL, YEAH.

THOUGH I'D REALLY RATHER NOT, LET'S ADJOURN TO MY PRIVATE CHAMBER.
GLUTTONED
—BUT BEFORE THAT— IT'S HOT AND SO MESSY IN HERE.
Get this place tidied up a little!
Stuff that got moved out of the storeroom to create the private chamber in question.

*Inscription = Be it ever so humble, it's home sweet home.

I BET YOU'RE GONNA LAUGH—
Silence
...
LET'S HEAR WHO'S FAMOUS DEDUCTION THEN, SHALL WE?
WHO THINKS ALIENS ARE BEHIND IT.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE HAS TO DO WITH CATTLE MUTILATION.

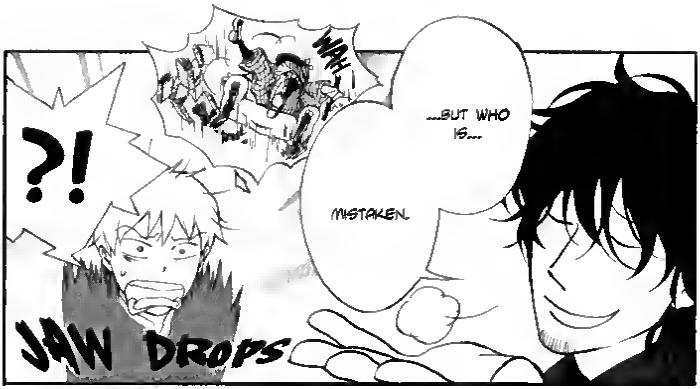

EVEN MORE BIZARRELY, THE BODIES ARE SOMETIMES FOUND IN TREES
AND THE EYES AND OTHER PARTS HAVE BEEN REMOVED WITH SHARP OBJECTS
THE CARCASSES ARE COMPLETELY DRAINED OF BLOOD
CATTLE MUTILATION REFERS TO INCIDENTS WHERE LIVESTOCK, SUCH AS COWS, ARE DISCOVERED UNDER BIZARRE CIRCUMSTANCES

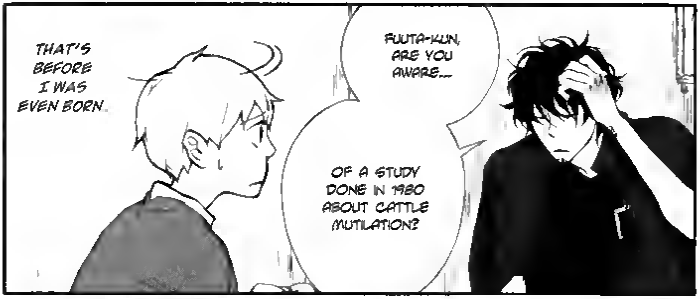

IT IS BELIEVED THE ALIENS ABDUCT AND THEN DISSECT THE COWS IN ORDER TO STUDY THE ANIMALS ON PLANET EARTH.
BOOKS ON EXTRA-TERRESTRIALS AND UFOS CLAIM THESE MUTILATIONS ARE THE WORK OF ALIENS.
©?$©
By Fuuta (Art Group 2)

ANOTHER THING IS THAT THE FUR ON POCHI'S RIGHT FRONT PAW WAS MISSING WHEN HE RETURNED.
THAT'S MORE PROOF THAT POCHI WAS BEING SUBJECTED TO VIVISECTION

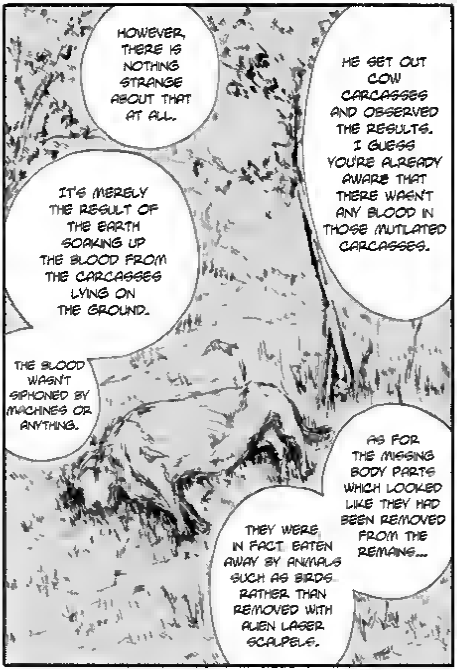
THAT'S WHY IT HAS TO BE THE WORK OF ALIENS WHO ZAPPED POCHI WITH A RAY OR SOMETHING AND MADE HIM DISAPPEAR.
THERE'S NO WAY ANYTHING CAN DISAPPEAR THAT QUICKLY, IS THERE?
POCHI VANISHED RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES THAT DAY.

I BET YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT TERM
BEAM
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU'D CALL.....
CATTLE MUTILATION?
I SEE.
SMIRK
CATTLE MUTILATION, HUH?
AN EXCELLENT ANALYSIS I MUST SAY.
Bring me some tea~
IT'S A PITY....
WHO sensei indeed!!!
MUAHAHAHA
We did it!!
I did it!!!


?!
JAW DROPS
...BUT WHO IS...
MISTAKEN.


THAT'S BEFORE I WAS EVEN BORN.
FUUTA-KUN, ARE YOU AWARE...
OF A STUDY DONE IN 1980 ABOUT CATTLE MUTILATION?

WHAT? REALLY ?!!
AN INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY A RETIRED FBI AGENT NAMED KENNETH M. ROMMEL, JR...
CONCLUDED THAT CATTLE MUTILATION HAS NEVER, EVER TAKEN PLACE.

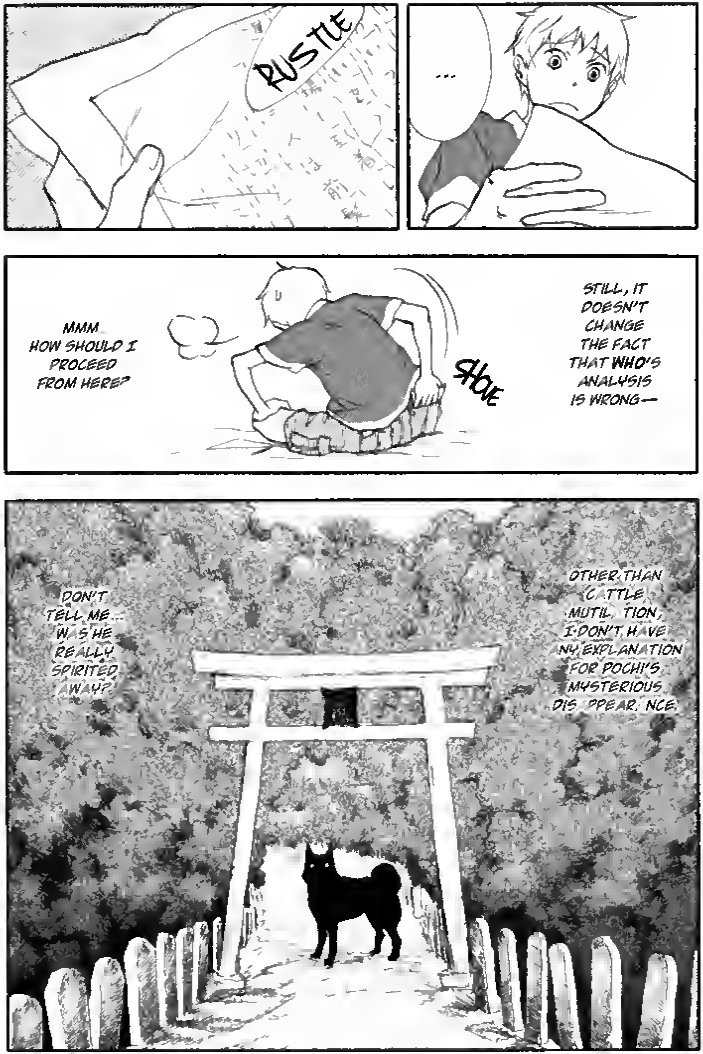

HOWEVER, THERE IS NOTHING STRANGE ABOUT THAT AT ALL.
IT'S MERELY THE RESULT OF THE EARTH SOAKING UP THE BLOOD FROM THE CARCASSES LYING ON THE GROUND.
THE BLOOD WASN'T SIPHONED BY MACHINES OR ANYTHING.
HE GET OUT COW CARCASSES AND OBSERVED THE RESULTS. I GUESS YOU'RE ALREADY AWARE THAT THERE WASN'T ANY BLOOD IN THOSE MUTILATED CARCASSES.
AS FOR THE MISSING BODY PARTS WHICH LOOKED LIKE THEY HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THE REMAINS...
THEY WERE, IN FACT, EATEN AWAY BY ANIMALS SUCH AS BIRDS RATHER THAN REMOVED WITH ALIEN LASER SCALPELS.

IT STRUCK THE AGENT AS ODD THAT IN SPITE OF THE MULTIPLE REPORTS OF COW MUTILATION,
THE YEARLY MORTALITY RATE FOR COWS HADN'T CHANGED.

CREST-FALLEN
My pic. for art class when I read about bovine gore
Grog back

CATTLE MUTILATION IS ACTUALLY THE PERFECTLY NATURAL DECOMPOSITION PROCESS THAT DEAD ANIMALS HAVE GONE THROUGH SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL.
THE CONCLUSION?
Flatly
SO THAT MEANS—
PFFF
PFFF
PFFF
PFFFFFF
Deflated

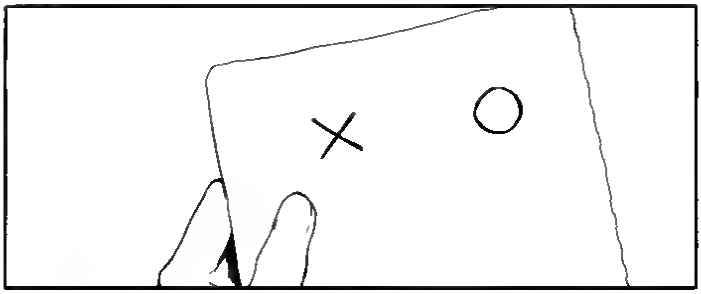
HOWEVER,
THE FACT THAT YOU— I MEAN, WHO—
ACTUALLY ANALYZED THINGS LOGICALLY PLEASES ME.
YOU SEE, IT'S TRUE THAT WITHOUT SOMETHING LIKE THE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY OF ALIENS....
THERE IS NO WAY AN OBJECT CAN DISAPPEAR SO SUDDENLY.

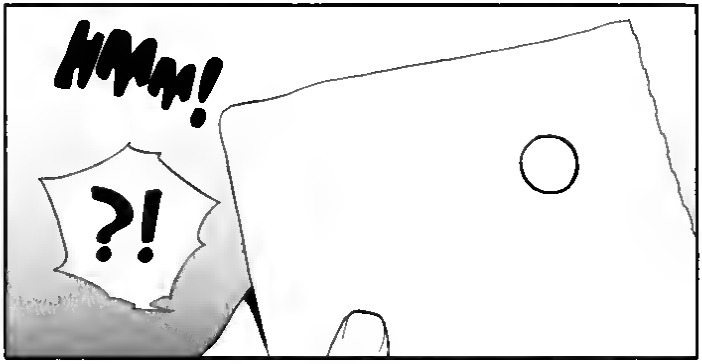

RUSTLE
...
MMM... HOW SHOULD I PROCEED FROM HERE?
SHAKE
STILL, IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT WHO'S ANALYSIS IS WRONG—
DON'T TELL ME... WAS HE REALLY SPIRITED AWAY?
OTHER THAN CATTLE MUTIL TION, I DON'T HAVE NY EXPLANATION FOR POCHI'S MYSTERIOUS DIS PPEAR. NCE.

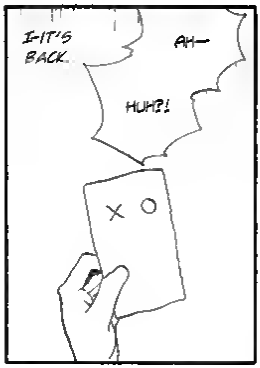
DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY IT YOURSELF, FUUTA-KUN?
THERE'S NO WAY ANYTHING CAN DISAPPEAR THAT QUICKLY.
IF THAT'S THE CASE,
QUESTION THE PERSON WHO SAW IT, FUUTA-KUN. QUESTION YOURSELF.

YOU SHOULD
NEVER TRUST
WHAT
YOU SEE
100%.

I...
I SHOULDN'T TRUST WHAT I SAW?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...
LET'S DO A LITTLE EXPERIMENT SHALL WE?
AN X AND AN O?
COVER YOUR RIGHT EYE WITH YOUR HAND. WITH YOUR LEFT EYE FOCUS ON THE O.
KEEP LOOKING AT THE O...
AND MOVE THE PAPER TOWARD YOU AND THEN AWAY FROM YOU.




HMMM!
?!


IT'S BACK.
AH—
HUH?!

WHAT? NO WAY!
GONE?!

THAT WAS YOUR BLIND SPOT.
YOU COULDN'T SEE THE X AT ONE POINT, COULD YOU?
NOD NOD
SHOCKED?
A PERSON CAN'T SEE ANYTHING IN HIS BLIND SPOT.
INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, WE'RE MOSTLY OBLIVIOUS TO THE EXISTENCE OF BLIND SPOTS.
WE ALL HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT WE'RE SEEING EVERYTHING WITHIN SIGHT.
BUT WHY ARE WE OBLIVIOUS TO BLIND SPOTS?
THAT HAS TO DO WITH THE LIKES AND DISLIKES OF THE HUMAN BRAIN.
THE LIKES AND DISLIKES OF THE HUMAN BRAIN?

WHENEVER ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY HAPPENS, THE BRAIN INTERPRETS IT SO IT MAKES SENSE.
Hmm It's got to be th...all
What's this?
??
OAX
YOU SEE, THE BRAIN HATES ANYTHING INCONVENIENT.

THE REASON I SAID NOT TO BELIEVE WHAT YOU SEE 100%...
IS BECAUSE WHAT YOU'RE SEEING MAY BE JUST YOUR BRAIN'S INTERPRETATION OF IT.

THAT'S NOT IT.
POCHI-KUN'S DISAPPEARANCE CANNOT BE EXPLAINED BY BLIND SPOTS.

IT WAS JUST THAT HE WAS IN MY BLIND SPOT AND COULDN'T BE SEEN?
SO YOU'RE SAYING POCHI'S DISAPPEARANCE WASN'T IN FACT A DIS-APPEARANCE AT ALL?

SO HOW DID POCHI DISAPPEAR?
NEITHER CATTLE MUTILATION NOR BLIND SPOTS CAN EXPLAIN IT...

NO— THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN. TELL ME MORE, WON'T YOU?
I'M A MIRAIYA, THAT'S HOW.
Topple...
Shuffle

THAT REMINDS ME. THAT DAY. HOW DID YOU KNOW POCHI WOULD SOON REAPPEAR, NEKOYANAGI-SAN?

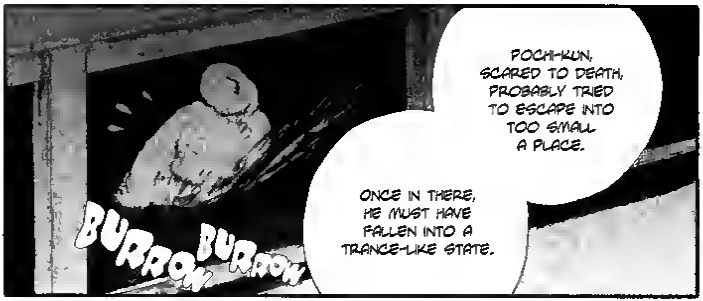
IT'S A BOTHER, BUT I'LL TELL YOU.
I HAD ALL THE DATA PERFECTLY GATHERED THAT TIME.
THE FUTURE IS EVIDENT WHEN DATA IS PERFECT.

I DON'T HAVE TO PAY?
NO YOU DON'T. BECAUSE IT'S ALREADY HISTORY.
I ONLY ASK FOR PAYMENT WHEN I SELL YOU THE FUTURE.

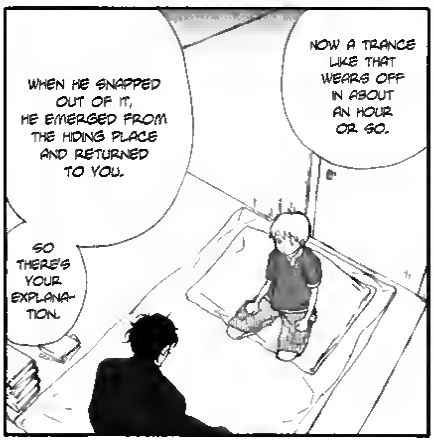
FIRST OF ALL, WHEN POCHI-KUN VANISHED.
THERE WAS A SUDDEN FLASH OF LIGHTNING FOLLOWED BY A DEAFENING THUNDER CLAP, RIGHT?
AND IT WASN'T JUST THE SOUND THE GROUND WAS SHAKING LIKE THERE WAS AN EARTHQUAKE.

AS A RESULT OF THE DEAFENING NOISE AND THE GROUND SHAKING,
YOU WERE SHOCKED AND DIS-ORIENTED.
SO DURING THAT SPLIT SECOND,
YOUR EYES WERE OPEN, BUT YOU WEREN'T PROCESSING ANYTHING YOU WERE SEEING.
IN OTHER WORDS, A STATE OF PANIC?

SO THAT WAS WHY HE SEEMED TO JUST SUDDENLY VANISH...
NATURALLY ALARM DOGS, AND THEIR INSTINCT IS TO RUN AWAY.
NOISES LIKE THAT....
POCHI-KUN, BEING POCHI-KUN WAS EXTREMELY FRIGHTENED BY THE LOUD NOISE.


BURROW BURROW
POCHI-KUN, SCARED TO DEATH, PROBABLY TRIED TO ESCAPE INTO TOO SMALL A PLACE.
ONCE IN THERE, HE MUST HAVE FALLEN INTO A TRANCE-LIKE STATE.

I SEE... SO POCHI RETURNED WITH THE FUR FROM HIS RIGHT PAW MISSING...
BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN SCRABBLING INTO THAT SMALL HIDING PLACE...


WHEN HE SNAPPED OUT OF IT, HE EMERGED FROM THE HIDING PLACE AND RETURNED TO YOU.
NOW A TRANCE LIKE THAT WEARS OFF IN ABOUT AN HOUR OR SO.
SO THERE'S YOUR EXPLANATION.

...
Oh...
THEN AGAIN...
THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN ANOTHER PAST.
ANOTHER...
PAST?

PERHAPS...
MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCES REALLY DO TAKE PLACE IN THAT FOREST.

THE FLOW OF TIME...
TRAVELS FORWARD AND CONVERGES INTO A SINGLE FUTURE.
IN THE COURSE OF SUCH TRAVEL,
NUMEROUS POSSIBILITIES ARE ABANDONED.

WHERE IN THE WORLD...
DO THOSE ABANDONED PASTS GO?

ぼくと未来星の夏
Don't you want to know the Future?

Boku To Miraiya No Natsu

VOLUME [illegible] 3

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